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A/48/57
21 December 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 18 December 1992 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach a copy of a press statement issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, regarding the resolutions adopted today by the General Assembly concerning South Africa (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa".

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Press statement containing comments by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa on the adoption by the General Assembly of the omnibus resolution on South Africa

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, said today that the omnibus resolution on South Africa adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 1992 a/ at last reflected the realities of the South African situation. The resolution was broadly in line with the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations which called upon all parties to combat violence and to cooperate, he said.

Responding to media inquiries, he commented further:

"The South African Government welcomes the call upon all signatories of the National Peace Accord to recommit themselves to the process of peaceful change by fully and effectively implementing its provisions and by cooperating with each other to that end. In the resolution, it is noted that recognition is also given to recent agreements aimed at removing obstacles to resuming negotiations as well as acknowledging with satisfaction the release of political prisoners. In particular, the Safeguards Agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency and South Africa of 16 September 1991 is welcomed.

"The resolution contains a few references to outdated practices. The main thrust, however, acknowledges that apartheid is gone and that a new era awaits South Africa, and urges all parties to play a constructive role in bringing about peace, stability and progress. This development is welcomed.

"The South African Government commends the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and active efforts to facilitate the peace process in South Africa."

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a/ Resolution 47/116.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION OF THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL
RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 28 December 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In connection with the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations of 17 December 1992 (A/47/804-S/24982), denying the involvement of the Croatian Army in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I would like to draw your attention to the following.

1. The involvement and engagement of the Croatian Army in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been confirmed by many, including the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Secretary-General in section IV of his report to the Security Council of 24 November 1992 (S/24848), stated: "Security Council resolutions calling for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Bosnia and Herzegovina remain largely unimplemented. The Croatian Army is reliably reported to be engaged extensively in the Republic, particularly in Herzegovina and in the Orasje area".

The Secretary-General further confirmed that in section IV of his report to the General Assembly of 3 December 1992 (A/47/747): "... it [UNPROFOR] has received credible reports of extensive involvement of forces of the Croatian Army in Bosnia and Herzegovina". In the same report, the Secretary-General stated: "Several brigades of the Croatian Army are also reliably reported to be actively engaged in the conflict."

Moreover, this involvement has been publicly acknowledged by the President of Croatia himself. In a recent interview published in The New York Times on 18 December 1992, Mr. Tudjman was quoted as saying: "Where we have fought in Bosnia, it has been to defend those areas where Croats are the majority."

The engagement of the Croatian Army in northern Bosnia was also publicly confirmed by the Croatian Minister of Defence, Mr. G. Susak. In the Zagreb daily Novi vjesnik, he not only admitted the presence of the Croatian Army in the area of Orasje (North-East Bosnia), but also stated that he openly acknowledged this to Mr. Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. In addition, he revealed that the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Nambiar, has protested the presence of the Croatian Army troops in the area of Orasje.

Bearing all this in mind, it is surprising that the reports of the involvement and engagement of the Croatian Army in Bosnia and Herzegovina could possibly be rejected as "fabrications, misinterpretations and blatantly false".

The engagement of the army of the Republic of Croatia in Bosnia and Herzegovina represents a clear violation of the commitments undertaken at the London Conference, relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the resolutions of the Security Council, in particular resolution 757 (1992), adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

2. In addition, open threats of "possible future involvement" of the armed forces of the Republic of Croatia in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as provisions of weapons by the Republic of Croatia to Muslims and Croats fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina, could only further exacerbate the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and jeopardize the current peace efforts in the framework of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the agenda items entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" and "Human rights questions: Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.